

**Explanation of the
Elements on the 1999 Academic Performance Index (API)
List of Schools**

Following is an explanation of the information presented in Attachment A, the “Sample Internet Reports for the 1999 API.”

1999 Percent Tested

This percent is calculated by dividing the number of students who participated in the 1999 Stanford 9 test by the total enrollment in those grades tested. The Stanford 9 is a required test given to all students in grades 2 to 11 as part of the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program (STAR). Enrollment is based on the October 1998 California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS) data collection.

1999 API

The 1999 API summarizes a school’s performance on the 1999 Stanford 9. The API is on a scale of 200 to 1000. It is based on the performance of individual pupils on Stanford 9 content area tests as measured by national percentile rankings (NPRs).

1999 Statewide Rank

All schools that receive APIs are ranked in deciles (ten equal groups) according to the value of their APIs. There are separate rankings for elementary, middle, and high schools. The decile rankings may be interpreted in the following fashion:

A ranking of 9 or 10 = well above average for all elementary, middle or high schools

A ranking of 7 or 8 = above average for all elementary, middle or high schools

A ranking of 5 or 6 = about average for all elementary, middle or high schools

A ranking of 3 or 4 = below average for all elementary, middle or high schools

A ranking of 1 or 2 = well below average for all elementary, middle or high schools

1999 Similar Schools Rank

All schools that receive APIs are also ranked in deciles by school type when compared to schools with similar background characteristics. These characteristics include:

- Pupil mobility *
- Pupil ethnicity
- Pupil socioeconomic status *
- Percentage of teachers who are fully credentialed
- Percentage of teachers who hold emergency credentials
- Percentage of pupils who are English language learners
- Average class size per grade level

* These data were submitted on the pupil information form that accompanied the Stanford 9 test. In some cases, the data were incomplete, which could affect the similar schools ranking.

Attachment B

- Whether the schools operate multitrack year-round educational programs

The similar schools decile rankings may be interpreted in the following fashion:

A ranking of 9 or 10 = well above average for elementary, middle or high schools with similar background characteristics

A ranking of 7 or 8 = above average for all elementary, middle or high schools with similar background characteristics

A ranking of 5 or 6 = about average for all elementary, middle or high schools with similar background characteristics

A ranking of 3 or 4 = below average for all elementary, middle or high schools with similar background characteristics

A ranking of 1 or 2 = well below average for all elementary, middle or high schools with similar background characteristics

1999-2000 Growth Target

A school's growth target is calculated by taking five percent of the distance between a school's 1999 API and the interim statewide performance target of 800. For any school with a 1999 API of 781 to 799, the annual growth target is one point. Any school with an API of 800 or more must maintain an API of at least 800.

2000 API Target

The 2000 API target is the sum of the 1999 API and the growth target, except for schools with a 1999 API of 800 or more. These schools are expected to maintain an API of at least 800 in the year 2000.